Kisan Credit Cards to farmers

†*476. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers who have been provided Kisan Credit Cards during the last two and a half years;

(b) the total amount distributed to the farmers, till date, since the inception of Kisan Credit Card Scheme;

(c) the total number of farmers benefited with the said scheme until now; and

(d) the present status of recovery of loan given to the farmers through Kisan Credit Cards?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) Scheme was introduced in August 1998 by NABARD and is being implemented by the Public Sector Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Cooperative Banks throughout the country. The total number of farmers who have been provided KCC during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 (up to 28th February, 2007) and 96,80 lakh, 80.12 lakh and 59.16 lakh respectively.

(b) and (c) The scheme has benefited about 6.50 crore farmers till February 2007. The total amount of credit limit sanctioned to the card holders/farmers till 28 February 2007 in the country stood at Rs. 2,13,855 crore since introduction of the KCC scheme in August 1998.

(d) The status of recovery of loan given to the farmers through Kisan Credit Cards in not captured separately by NABARD.

Installation of rain water harvesting system

477. SHRI N. R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government insisted that the State Governments constitute mandatory rules to make compulsory installation of Rain Water

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.